

LATIN AMERICAN REPORT

January 1959

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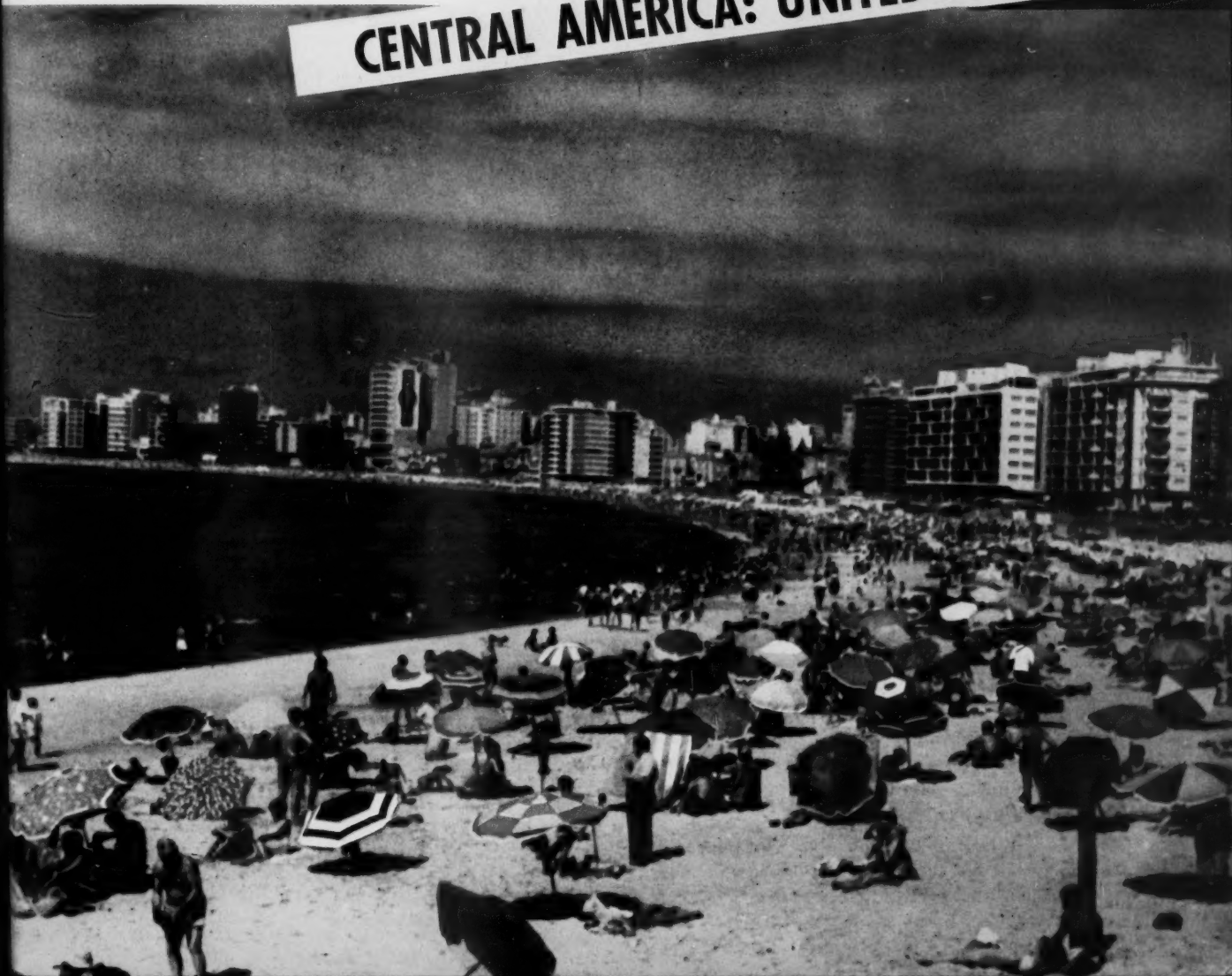
IRISUARY The world's premier welfare state suddenly does a political about face.

CENTRAL AMERICA Five of the smallest nations of the western hemisphere band together for mutual aid.

PERSONALITY Dr. Luis Manuel Debayle, president of the senate of Nicaragua, outlines the future for his country.

PEPITO A 22 year old becomes a net wonder.

CENTRAL AMERICA: UNITED IT STANDS



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LETTERS

Speaking of Understanding

To The Editor:

It would now appear that matters in the southern part of our hemisphere are finally getting the attention from the United States that the situation demands from an overall and particularly the economic standpoint. The Nixon incident, while regrettable, nevertheless served to focus attention of both our government and our American public on that section of the world with the result that undertakings are under way which will no doubt help to resolve the many problems that cry out for solution. The cardinal objective on the part of all well-meaning persons in both the northern and southern part of our hemisphere is to reach a better and closer understanding of each other as individuals.

In these matters, we trust we are in hands fully dedicated and equipped to cope with them. But nevertheless, there is one important phase of this matter of better understanding on which the writer feels greater stress might be placed to considerable advantage, and it is this particular phase which should be brought to bear on an international basis between men of good intentions, possessed of sensible and practical outlooks, who speak a common language, and are impeded only

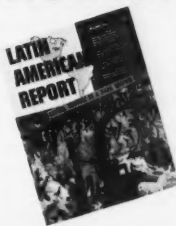
which I wish to emphasize.

The writer, a retired American businessman, has recently taken up temporary residence in Mexico and is genuinely interested in exchanging viewpoints with representative Mexican people; but immediately finds an impossible barrier in accomplishing this objective because of the language barrier.

My own personal experience, perhaps of small moment, does, I believe, have a much broader application when viewed on a comprehensive international scale.

In the vernacular of American business life, how often you have heard the expression, "He speaks my language", the inference being that, as between two individuals, no great difficulty will be experienced in a meeting of minds and the resolving of objectives. A communion is thus struck up which will negate completely selfish, irresponsible and unnecessary aspects, and thus bring forth the constructive and mutually profitable phases of the matter at hand. Thus progress is made. If this is true locally, and in a narrow sense, why cannot the same attitudes and reason by the fact they speak different local tongues? Should this barrier be crossed, great progress could undeniably be made, not only in economic matters, but in social and cultural ones as well.

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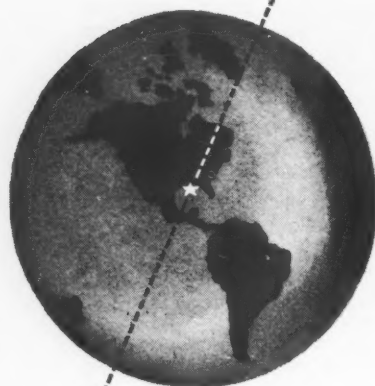
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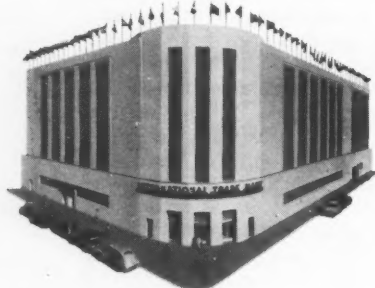
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It seems logical to assume that bilingualism on a broad scale within the Western Hemisphere would do more to improve understanding between our despective people than any othr single approach; after all, we are all Ameicans with the same desires, aspirations, and with some exceptions, the same inclination toward the democratic way of life.

Let us take a concrete and practical occurence of everyday life, the matter of individual travel between our countries, which is now practiced on a large scale. In this connection, think how much misunderstanding and irritation with local manners and customs would be removed if we could just clearly and easily state our wants and attitudes. Then, too, it is the most sincere form of flattery to express ourselves in our neighbors' language. Last, but by no means least, in acquiring another language, we add distinctively to our cultural background.

Admitting all this, how do we approach the practical aspects of acquiring bilingualism?

Obviously, the basic start should be in our respective school systems. It seems to be a major opinion of educators that cultural studies be best started in the primary grades and carried through in a connected and logical way through secondary and college levels. This is not to say that nothing is being done at the present time in this direction. As I understand it, the study of English is accented in Mexican schools and the study of Spanish is encouraged at certain levels in American schools; but there seems to be no overall pattern which would insure bilingualism on a comprehensive scale. It would appear that leaders of our respective educational institutions, as well as interested government tions involved, might well arganize a massive program which would have for its objective the instilling of the desire for the study of English or Spanish, as the case might be; and the installing of the necessary educational programs to see the matter through.

The writer sincerely believes that, once a general movement is actively generated in the direction of bilingualism between ourselves and our southern neighbors, it might well grow to grass-fire proportions, because such a movement would contain so many of the natural elements that would stir our interests and enthusiasms.

Why don't we give it the big try?

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ED SHOOK AND TIKAL

Every now and then, in traveling, you encounter the type of person whose faith and belief in an idea can transcend virtually any obstacle.

Such a person is Ed Shook, born in North Carolina, whom I encountered in the remote city of Tikal, located in the heart of the great Peten district of Guatemala.

The important thing about Shook is that for 25 years he has done many jobs in the field of archeology, but always has had the desire to some day head a field party which would study and finally restore some of the great pyramids of Tikal, perhaps the greatest city ever built by the strange and mysterious Maya Indians.

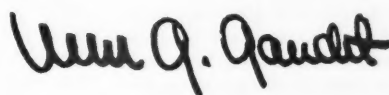
Once he almost died from thirst in traveling to Tikal on muleback. A great war, World War II, intervened; inroads of Communists under the regime of Juan Jose Arevalo and Jacobo Arbenz, blocked his hopes. Yet always he kept working, hoping and praying.

Four years ago the University Museum, of the University of Pennsylvania, made possible the culmination of his hopes when they gave him the word in 1955 to head a field expedition to Tikal.

Tikal well may prove to be the mightiest of all the cities the Mayans built, it may well offer many an answer to the mysteries that surround that mystic and strange tribe.

And yet, in the book of Ed Shook, there is only one motto: "There is so much work to be done."

I am here now to look into those problems and just as soon as all of the facts can be correlated they will be offered to you in the pages of Latin American Report magazine.



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THIS MONTH'S COVER: The famed beaches of Montevideo, Uruguay. Kodachrome courtesy His Excellency, the Uruguayan Ambassador.

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of our hemisphere.*

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PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS ISSUE: 15-17, Dennis J. Cipnic.

UP TO DA

A Monthly Summation of L

HAITI . . .

Nothing but silence ensues from Haiti after last month's sudden upheaval in the Haitian Army's general staff. President Duvalier unceremoniously sacked his army commander, Major General Maurice Flambert, and some seventeen high ranking officers, after rumors of a reported coup attempt against the government began circulating around Port au Prince.

It is not known at this time whether or not General Flambert and any of his reportedly conspiratorial co-officers are under arrest. This seems doubtful, however, as Flambert has been one of Duvalier's more trusted allies in the past. In fact, it would not be at all surprising to see the ex-General retain a certain amount of his governmental and military influence. However, under such a ruler as Duvalier this admittedly counts for little, unless there are troops behind the words.

COSTA RICA . . .

Here's an opportunity for U.S. investors in Latin America. Mr. J. W. Knoke, owner of a banana plantation, reports that he needs around \$100,000 to expand planting operations by 500 hectares. He states that the amount can be supplied by one or many investors, and that his company will provide "satisfactory guarantees" for the investment.

The plantation already owns the land, has transportation facilities; buyers for the crop, and Mr. Knoke himself has had over fifteen years experience at handling this sort of operation. He says that the 500 hectares will produce nearly \$10,000 worth of bananas every ten days, once the 15 month growing period is over, and that net profit will be around 20%.

Latin American Report does not personally vouchsafe any of Mr. Knoke's statements, but interested parties can write or wire him at:

J. W. Knoke (Cables: KNOKE)
Apartado 2290
San Jose
Costa Rica

was stopped, and it has taken this long for Venezuelan reluctance to be associated with any of the old regime's grandiose plans to wear off. Though there is some fear on the part of conservative elements that the project is still too ambitious for the Venezuelan people to undertake, most officials feel that it will be a successful addition to the country's rate of progress.

The reactor will be located near Caracas, and will be initially staffed by fourteen non-Venezuelan scientists. Eventually there will be thirty scientists working with the device, most of them Venezuelans trained by the initial staff.

LIMA . . .

The Peruvian Navy has been lent some \$13,700,000 by the United States to pay for two submarines. The ships, radar and snorkel equipped, were ordered and delivered to the South American country over a year ago. This loan, quietly made, is the first such financial help that the United States has given to any Latin American nation. Though in the past Washington has been willing to lend or sell surplus U.S. military equipment to Latin American countries, there has never before been any financing of new weapons for nations in this hemisphere by the United States government.

Some Latin American sources, and communist agitators, have pounced upon this loan and claim it is another example of U.S. attempts to induce a Latin American arms race. The two new subs bring to a total of four those that Peru has purchased from the United States in the past four years.

CHILE . . .

How about a nice vacation in Antarctica? The Chilean government announces that plans are being completed for a February ship excursion to its bases on the frozen continent, with a possibility of air excursions to the South Pole itself. The ship will sail from the port of Valparaiso, has room for seventy two passengers, and will take about two weeks to make

DATE...

on of Latin American News, Features and Events

the trip.

Passengers are urged to make reservations as soon as possible. Believe it or not, requests for tickets are coming in rather fast.

NASSAU . . .

Latin Americans have always been regarded as more motor minded than their hemispheric cousins to the north, despite Detroit's awesome efficiency and the "brickyard" of Indianapolis. Persons of the stature of Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio, generally considered the all-time great of Grand Prix race drivers, are continental heroes below the Tropic of Cancer. So it came as somewhat of a surprise at the

VENEZUELA . . .

Within the next eight months, this booming South American nation is expected to have its first atomic reactor. The plant will have a capacity of 3,000 kilowatts of energy, and will be used primarily to train personnel in nuclear technique. An important program in the production of isotopes for medicine and agriculture is also planned.

The reactor was planned and initiated by the Perez Jimenez government, and capitalized at \$5,400,000, of which sum \$300,000 came from the United States. When the Government was overthrown last year at this time, work on the half finished plant recently held Nassau Speed Trials when a 22 year old Norte Americano, herding before him a team of Chevrolet powered automobiles, left the Europeans and Latins in his dust.

The young man was Lance Reventlow, son of Count Reventlow and Barbara Hutton, and his Detroit powerhouses are called Scarabs. Lance created these Grand Prix cars himself, and they bear no outward resemblance to any car you might ever see on the highway. The motors do resemble Chevrolet engines, and well they should, for they started out life as such. But I wouldn't want one under the hood of a Bel Air, thank you. Lance's super-powered engines think nothing at all of winding up to 150 miles an hour. Though he has

been racing the Scarab sporadically for the past year or so, this was its first big outing, and the car racked up the first all-US victory in international road racing in 34 years.

PANAMA . . .

The Pan-American highway, that concrete dream of Latin Americans for many years, is now one giant step nearer completion. Thomas Guardia, engineer in charge of selecting a route for the highway through the wilds of the Darien Gap, reports that a route has now been determined, and construction is expected to get underway shortly. Darien is the site of the last great incomplete link in the highway.

However, Mr. Guardia also reports that due to the great difficulties encountered in jungle highway construction, this 485 mile gap in the trans-continental road will take from five to seven years to complete and may cost \$100,000,000. The Darien Gap is so named because it is a stretch of almost impenetrable rain forest stretching alongside the Darien Mountains of lower Panama and on into Colombia. The Pan American highway will be the first road of consequence ever put through this area, which up until very recently hadn't even been mapped or explored. When it is complete, the highway will stretch from Alaska to Cape Horn, a vital transportation artery over 7,000 miles long.

ECUADOR . . .

Just after Mr. Guardia told us of the Darien Gap project, word came that the United States has lent Ecuador \$4,700,000 to complete its section of the Pan-American highway. Demster McIntosh, director of the development loan fund, has notified Ecuador that the funds have been allocated for Ecuador's use in pushing the highway through the mountainous southern regions of that country.

The specific area involved is a 150 mile stretch from Loja to Macara, the latter town located right on the Peruvian border. When this link is complete the highway will be unbroken between Caracas, Venezuela,

and Buenos Aires, in Argentina. It will also allow, for the first time, comfortable automobile travel from Ecuador to Peru.

WASHINGTON . . .

As this is being written the Pan American Union's Economic and Social council is meeting to draw up the long awaited charter of the Inter-American Development Institute. According to the experts preparing the plans, the Institute will require some three billion dollars to fulfill its goals. Presently available funds, they state, are far below the sum which Latin American countries can successfully utilize and repay.

The charter will include the following goals for the Institute: a) make funds available to various development banks within Latin American nations, so that these banks can extend loans to private firms; b) assist member nations in obtaining capital from other sources; c) extend direct loans for specific projects and purposes; d) stimulate private foreign investment in Latin America; e) keep in close contact with the development of each member nation.

MEXICO:

According to Doctor Salvador Roguet Perez, chairman of the Mexican Tuberculosis Association, virtually 100% of all Mexicans over 20 years of age show positive tuberculin reactions. In a recent medical conference Dr. Roguet Perez reported that the situation "could not be darker"

Some six percent of Mexican children become infected with the disease before they are on year old, and nearly 25% between the ages of one and four. Next to malaria, tuberculosis is Mexico's greatest public health problem, the doctor said.

However, Dr. Donato Alarcon, director of the National Committee Against Tuberculosis expressed his opinion that current public health programs of the Mexican government will soon wipe out the dread disease.

Central American

UNION



Cure for Latin American Ills?



Five of the smallest Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua—comprising four fifths of Central America, have come up with a big plan to cure their economic ills: a Central American Economic Union. Taking their cue from Benelux, the postwar economic union of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, they have taken steps to intergrate their economies on a regional scale. Ultimately, they expect to unite all of them into a single Central American economy. Union, they are convinced, is the only way they can industrialize, raise their agricultural output, and give all their citizens a decent standard of living.

If the Central American experiment succeeds, as appears likely, it may well be followed by other regional unions to the south. Some South American republics have already taken some preliminary steps in that direction. And indeed the need for such union is obvious. The most populous of these countries, Guatemala, has only 3,500,000 inhabitants, and the largest in area, Nicaragua, boasts only 57,143 square miles of territory (about the size of Michigan). But, combined, the five republics total some ten million people and cover an area of approximately 170,000 square miles. With Panama, which might eventually join them, another million persons and 29,000 square miles would be added to the union. While a united Central America will be no giant, it would constitute one of the important economic units south of the Rio Grande.

ACTS. The Central American nations aren't just talking unity—they are acting. Last June their economic ministers met at Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, and signed two treaties which have laid a sound basis for economic union. One establishes Central America as the Western Hemisphere's first international free-

trade zone. The Treaty abolishes all customs duties and export-import taxes on 237 different commodities ranging from asphalt to yogurt and accounting for one-fourth of the area's total commerce. An additional list of mainly agricultural products is about to be added, bringing 40 percent of intra-Central American trade under the Treaty.

The Treaty goes beyond just the establishment of a free-trade zone. For one thing, it encourages new investment. Within certain bounds, any Central American may now organize and administer a business enterprise in any of the five republics and receive the same rights and privileges as he would in his own country. Going still further, the signatories named a Central American Trade Commission with instructions "to elaborate a definitive plan of integration, including a customs union and the establishment of a common market."

The Commission has already worked out a Uniform Tariff Nomenclature for Central America which is now being used by Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua and will soon be adopted by El Salvador and Guatemala. At present, the Commission is drafting a companion Uniform Customs Code and a method of standardizing tariff procedures. Later, it will have the job of setting up a common currency.

INDUSTRY. The second agreement signed at Tegucigalpa deals with two very concrete matters decisive to the Central American experiment: the introduction of new industries designed to serve the whole region, and the locating of them in the most suitable countries regardless of narrow national considerations. Central America at present has scarcely any industry to speak of. Until last June the problem appeared insoluble. What businessman would risk capital to build a major industrial enterprise in any "banana republic?" Who would want

to invest millions of dollars starting a fertilizer industry in, say, little Honduras, whose 1,700,000 inhabitants are mostly impoverished peasants? Who would venture to install a factory in tiny Costa Rica to make artificial fibers, much-needed in Central America, if he could count on only 900,000 people as his market?

The Economic Ministers who met at Tegucigalpa hit upon an unorthodox but practicable solution. It was, in the words of the Convention, to establish plants or factories "whose minimum capacity requires that they have access to the Central America market in order to operate under reasonable economic and competitive conditions", and to install them in countries where they should logically be located.

Thus in northern Honduras, where there is ample timber, it has been decided to build a pulp and paper mill designed to serve all five republics. To be constructed by an American concern, National Bulk Carrier Inc., at a cost of 40 million dollars, the plant represents a solid investment because it will have all Central America as its market and will be the area's first and only paper mill. And it will enable the five republics to cut drastically or eliminate entirely a costly import.

One regional industry already in existence is Central America's first tire plant, which General Tire and Rubber Co. and a group of Guatemalan businessmen recently opened in Guatemala. Other industrial projects are also in the works, including the possible location of a fertilizer plant in El Salvador.

Private enterprise is playing a key role in all this activity. The chief regional industrial planning agency is the Commission on Industrial Initiative, which was created in 1956 and consists of two representatives from each country; one of these is a businessman and the other a government official. Their aim is not to con-



The hope: that more ships will be filled with exported Central American goods

vert Central America into a highly industrialized area, a manifest impossibility since it is short of such basic resources as coal and iron. The aim is 'merely to introduce enough industry to supply more of its domestic needs at reasonable prices and, in particular, to increase agricultural output.

AGRICULTURE. Through an agrarian country, Central America today cultivates only about six percent of its land surface, using primitive farming methods and equipment. Most of the cultivated portion, moreover is planted in export crops like coffee, the most important, and bananas, which earn dollar exchange but add little to food production. Central Americans subsist chiefly on three staples—corn, beans and rice—but these are usually in short supply and must be imported to satisfy normal requirements. The Central Americans also lack fruits and vegetables, as well as meat and dairy products.

The Central Americans have taken still other important practical steps to make economic union a living fact. In Guatemala, they have started a regional Institute of Industrial Research and Technology, whose purpose is to apply the latest technological findings to Central America's natural resources and industrial problems. In Costa Rica, they have founded an Advanced School of Public Administration, which gives courses to high Central American officials and advises national and municipal governments on administrative problems.

A regional Commission of Jurists, composed of two top lawyers from each country, is investigating the possibility of creating a single body of Central American law. A University Council is working up a uniform curriculum for all Central American institutions of higher learning and

educators are starting a rural normal school and agricultural school. There is even a regional Council of Defense drafting plans to standardize military defense procedures and coordinate national defense programs.

NO VISA. One of the most significant steps taken toward economic union has little to do with economics. This was the abolition, last June 27, of all visa requirements for Central Americans traveling from one republic to the other. All they now need is a passport. "The next step," one Honduran immigration officer predicts, "will be to abolish all national passports and have just one 'Passport Centroamericano.' The idea is indeed being considered.

Meanwhile, in Guatemala, the license plates on the automobiles of the president, foreign minister and ambassadors today read not "Guatemala" but "Centro America". Soon legislators are expected to follow suit, and then the general public. It is hoped, of course, that the move will spread to other Central American countries.

PANAMA. The Central Americans will not regard their union as complete without the inclusion of an important neighbor, Panama. Carved out of Colombia by Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, Panama was originally part of the Viceroyalty of Peru, whereas Central America came under the Viceroyalty of New Spain (Mexico); hence the two have different histories. To this day, many Panamanians resent being classed as Central Americans. Nevertheless, Panama is geographically part of the Central American Isthmus, which extends from southern Mexico to northern South America, and shares its social and economic problems. The official language, of course, is the same, Spanish. Most important, the Panamanians are showing an active interest in Central

American union. "Obviously, it is to our advantage to belong to a market of more than 11 million people," a Panamanian businessman frankly admitted.

Since Dr. Milton Eisenhower's return from his Central American tour last summer, the United States has announced that it will join in forming an Inter-American Development Institute to promote economic development in Latin America. This organization and the Development Loan Fund expect to finance sound projects which may be presented by the Central American economic union, among others.

What does the United States stand to gain from Central American union?

First, an important new market for its goods. Once the union gets going, it will need all sorts of manufactured products—and what would be more logical than to buy them from the United States?

Second, a united Central America would provide a new field for U.S. private investment, what with the area's need for practically every kind of industry.

STABILITY. Third, economic union will almost certainly lead to political stability—if not to outright political union—and this will do both Central America and the U.S. a world of good. It will reduce the danger of anti-North Americanism and provide a bulwark against Communist activity.

Finally, a united Central America, especially if it includes Panama, can be an even more effective partner in the Hemisphere's defense.

Many authorities hold that regional associations within the Hemisphere are inevitable. The Rockefeller Report on "Foreign Economic Policy for the 20th Century," published last year included in its suggestion the "development of regional trade arrangement among three groups: the Central American nations; the northern tier countries of South America, and the nations of southern South America." Whether three or four regional associations come about (a fourth embracing the Caribbean Islands suggests itself), one is already in process of formation, in Central America, and its experience will be decisive for the Hemisphere.

If the Central American experiment succeeds, it will mark the beginning of an economic revolution which can radically change the face of the Western Hemisphere and bring to all who live in it real peace, progress and prosperity. In doing so, it should prove an inspiring example to the rest of the world.

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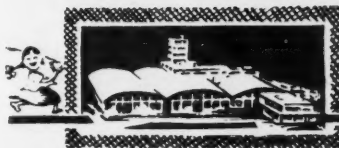
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Farewell to a

Uruguay's national capital building where the Blancos, after 90 years, are now in command; in the background is Montevideo

Ever since its formation in the turmoil of civil war, Uruguay's Blanco political party has been one of the most "have not" groups in the world. Except for very brief periods, its opposition, the Colorado party, has ruled this smallest of South American countries, leading it down an apparently never ending road toward complete welfare stateism. But now it appears that the road has at last turned. In last month's national elections the Uruguayan electorate swept the Colorados out of office in what amounted to a peaceful revolution. 414,000 of a total 739,000 voters voted no confidence in the continuation of the Welfare State.

The country of Uruguay lies on the southeastern coast of South America, wedged into a seaside corner between Brazil and Argentina. Its colonization began in 1624, after years of exploration by Spanish navigators and missionaries, and development as a colony of Spain proceeded apace that of Argentina, across the River Plate. But to the north, in the Portuguese colony

of Brazil, it was decided that the land was by right Brazilian, and to enforce this decision Portuguese colonists were sent into the region, establishing Colonia del Sacramento, directly across the river from Buenos Aires. The Spanish did not take kindly to this act, and so sent an expedition against the village. For the next half century, the territory was alternately Spanish, then Portuguese.

Gradually, however, it became apparent that the Spanish were in a much better strategic position to hold Uruguay. They built fortresses on the present site of Montevideo, and the Spanish fleet guarded the estuary of the River Plate. By 1776 Portuguese encroachment had been halted, and the next year saw the formal ceding of the country to Spain. But though the Spanish now controlled the land, they could not control the people. Uruguayans hungered after independence from the Viceroyalty on the other bank of the Plate. What they lacked, however, was a leader, until 1811. In that year Jose Gervasio Artigas, a

rancher and Spaniard of noble descent, took command of a small Uruguayan patriot army.

INDEPENDENCE. Artigas managed to free the western provinces of the country from Spanish domination, but was unable to dislodge them from Montevideo. Nevertheless, he led the western provinces into a confederation which lasted six years. All this time he fought constantly with the Spanish colonialists until Brazil, which had been waiting patiently for a division of forces in Uruguay, saw its chance. In 1820 the Portuguese led army swept down on the Spanish and patriots, defeated both armies, and re-conquered Uruguay, but only for five years. In 1825 one of Artigas' leaders secretly returned to Uruguay, issued a declaration of independence, raised an army, and then, in open battle, defeated the Brazilians. Finally, in 1828, a treaty was signed guaranteeing the country's independence from both Brazil and Argentina. Now, everyone thought, the trouble was finally over.

Everyone was wrong; the trouble

URUGUAY...

was just beginning. With the first Uruguayan constitution, adopted in 1830, there appeared on the scene one Fructuoso Rivera, leader of a political group which called itself the Colorado party. He got elected president, rallying behind him the lower middle classes, anti-clerical and intellectual factions. His opposition called itself the Blanco Party, representing the landowners, conservatives, and the Church. The Blancos declared war on the Colorados, allied themselves with the Argentines, and besieged Montevideo. For some ten years the war went on, until Brazil came to the aid of the Colorados, and forced the Blanco—Argentine army to surrender. The Colorados, now securely in power, felt they owed a debt of gratitude to their huge northern ally, and in 1865 got a chance to pay it.

The Blancos had sought military aid from Paraguay, and the Paraguayan dictator, Francisco Solano Lopez, agreed to help. In short order both Brazil and Argentina declared war on Paraguay. The Blancos declared war on those two countries, and on the Colorados, who signed alliances with Brazil and Argentina, and declared war on both the Blancos and Paraguay. For five years this war tore South America apart. Battles turned into massacres, towns were looted, civilians murdered. And at its end, everything stood exactly as before. The Colorados were in power, the Blancos still swearing revenge. The Paraguayans had gained nothing, but neither had Brazil or Argentina.

THE HERO. All this time nobody had been thinking about the people. So busy was everyone waging war



The rolling green land and great flocks of sheep provide Uruguay's greatest export, wool

Welfare State?





The Victoria Plaza Hotel in Montevideo provides luxury at bargain rates

and consolidating power that the average citizen of Uruguay was simply forgotten. In fact, it was not until 1903 that someone appeared who seemed to have remembered that such people did exist. His name was Jose Batlle y Ordóñez. Batlle was elected President in that year, and in a series of unprecedented steps began the long struggle which has made Uruguay the nation it is today. Remember that the country had seen nothing but war and political turmoil for nearly three hundred years; that the mass of citizens had been ignored all this time; that Uruguay was considered to be virtually a savage land. And this was only 56 years ago.

As his first step, the new President allowed the Blancos to have a voice in the government. He virtually forced the Colorados to make peace with their enemies, then turned the thoughts of his people toward improving their place in the world. By the time his second administration had begun in 1911, Batlle was in a position to demand, and get, internal reforms.

In short order he rammed through the congress the first series of social reforms ever seen in Uruguay. Needless to say, they were not to be the last. Capital punishment was outlawed, and child labor curtailed, while provisions for accident insurance, old age pensions, minimum wages and the eight hour day were all made law. And we must add that inheritance and

income taxes were also established. Of equal importance, Batlle helped get a new constitution adopted in 1918, which called for division of executive power between members of an elected Council of Administration. Through this particular plan failed, and in 1934 was abandoned in favor of a one man executive post, the idea stayed put in the minds of Uruguayans.

CATTLE BARONS. Since the Colorados had originally favored the lower middle classes, it came as somewhat of a surprise when Uruguay began to emerge on the world commerce scene as a land of livestock barons. The country, it is true, was beautifully suited to stock raising, being more or less one huge rolling plain, well watered and temperate of climate, but the Blancos had been pro-landowner, and not the Colorados. Could it be that there was now only one political party in Uruguay? Hardly.

What had happened was simple. The Colorados, in power, were doing their best to raise the standard of living in their country. When they looked around at Uruguay's national resources, what they saw were pampas, or grazing plains. So the stock raising industry, a natural one for Uruguay, was encouraged. This move, in turn, tended to increase the size of individual ranches; many small time farmers packed up and went to the big city, just as in the western history

of the United States. Gradually Uruguay turned into a country depending on the countryside for its economic life, yet with more and more of its people living in the city. One third of the total population lived in Montevideo alone. This suited the Colorados just fine. In fact, it kept them in power.

As we noted, the Colorados were middle-class prone. They were not friends of the very wealthy. And the fact is that Uruguay's stockmen were just that, so they were also Blancos. Yet they could not throw the Colorados, who were giving them their economic power by encouraging stock raising, out of office, because there were less and less rural voters and more and more urban voters. And as much as the Colorados were doing for the cattlemen, they were doing ten times more for the rising middle classes in Uruguay's cities and towns.

Montevideo, the national capital, as the largest of these urban centers, showed up many of the Colorado's measures the clearest. By the mid-1950's the average Montevidean worker had the following "fringe benefits" accruing from simply being a member of Uruguayan society: 44 hour week, old age pension, minimum wage law, paid vacations, compulsory employer's liability insurance, free education through the university level, low cost housing available and many other, not so obvious, benefits. It was no wonder they kept on voting the Colorados back into office; Uruguayans were enjoying the greatest socioeconomic free ride in Latin American history.

LAST CONSTITUTION. In 1951, Uruguay's fourth constitution in 120 years was adopted, and it set up the government as it is today. Advocates of the Colorados claim that it was one of their party's greatest accomplishments. Primarily, the new constitution

Uruguay's monument to Jose Artigas





Gaucha stockmen; the Colorados forgot them

provided that the office of president be abolished (remember Battle's plan of 1918?), and the executive branch of government henceforth be composed of nine elected members of a National Council. Six members come from the party polling the most votes in the national elections, and three from the party in second place. Council members are elected every four years, and cannot succeed themselves in office.

The Uruguayan legislature is called the General Assembly, and consists of two houses, the Senate and House of Representatives. It enacts laws, approves all treaties and alliances, regulates the budget and commerce, and elects the five member Supreme Court. Composed of 130 members, both houses serve four year terms, and are a check on the nine heads of the national ministries, appointed by the National Council. Generally speaking, Uruguay has what is perhaps the strongest constitutional government in Latin America, and one of the reasons for this is the fact that the nation's social reforms are not only constitutional, but a part of the document itself.

In summary, the Colorado party has been the prime political power in Uruguay for the country's entire modern history. It has encouraged the rise of stock raising to the number one position in the nation's economy, while simultaneously providing unheard of welfare benefits to its people, mostly going to urban dwellers. The question is, how, with its apparently unimpeachable program and objectives, did the Colorados manage to

get so soundly beaten in last month's elections?

THE UNDOING. The sad fact is that the Colorados were undone by their own policy. In recent years a schism has gradually developed inside party ranks, and the two resulting factions have been literally fighting it out. Only last year Luis Battle Berres and General Juan P. Ribas, leaders of the warring groups, fought a saber duel, though once they had been allies, and Ribas had even served as Battle Berres' Minister of War. This disunity within the party has made it virtually impossible for the Colorados to present a solid majority in the General Assembly. On the other hand, no other party has, up to 1958, held enough votes to over-ride the Colorados. So the Assembly has been held at a standstill, while things have gone from bad to worse.

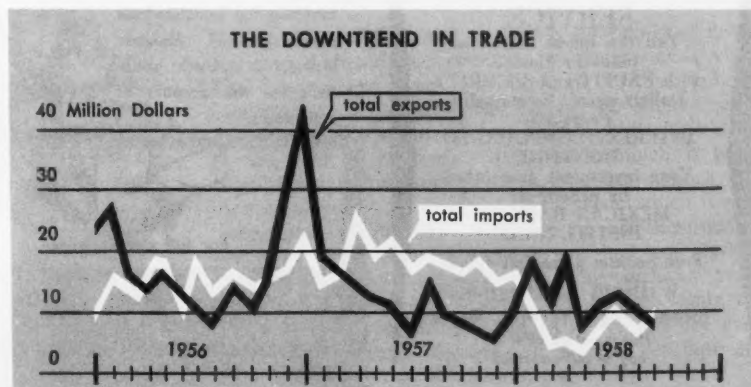
What has happened to Uruguay is not difficult to understand. The country's entire economy is based on the

raising of livestock. Beef and wool have been its only exports to speak of for the last century. Virtually all its land is perfect for grazing, but is noticeably deficient in mineral resources, so there are not many industries in the country. Rural inhabitants depend on the sale of meat and wool for their living, and many city dwellers work in meat packing and processing plants, for wool export houses, for ship lines which handle the products, on the rail lines which are prime cattle carriers, for leather product plants, etc. In other words, almost everyone counts on livestock for a living.

Along about 1948, however, the Colorados got a brilliant idea; they were going to change the economy of Uruguay. A law was passed which gave the government the right to break up the large livestock estates and sell them piecemeal to farmer co-ops. On the face of it, this was a fine idea. The land was the nation's prime resource, and it did not pay to have only one source of national income, so why not make the land do two things at once. The trouble was, you cannot export wheat nearly as well as you can export wool. Uruguay began to lose money.

INFLATION. Still the government persisted; each passing year saw the Colorados urge the planting of more wheat, more corn, and the raising of more dairy herds as opposed to beef cattle. The economy slumped, but the people of Uruguay in their way of life. For decades the Colorados had been spoiling the worker; the average Uruguayan had been living a Latin "Life of Riley". And so the Colorados were forced into a trap of their own making. Though income dropped, and money reserves dwindled, the government was forced to go right on paying out more and more in worker benefits. The result of this sort of thing is called inflation, and that is exactly what happened in Uruguay.

Prices rose, and so did wage demands. The government had to give



in without a fight, since it had carefully made law a bill calling for automatic cost of living wage increases to be attached to most labor contracts. To make matters worse, the government attempted to halt the drain on the national gold reserves by restoring the balance of trade. If exports couldn't rise, they figured, then imports would have to drop. The trouble was, Uruguay imports almost every manufactured product her people use. With less coming into the country, prices on everything from fountain pens to refrigerators went sky high. Up went labor demands, up went wages, up went government spending, and down came export volume. The Uruguayan peso was once worthy fifty cents, United States currency. You simply couldn't get it for less, either. Now it is worth ten cents, and may not be even that valuable tomorrow. Uruguay's gold reserves, her "national savings", have dropped from \$176,000,000 to \$143,000,000. She owes nearly \$75,000,000 more which must be paid up by this writing.

THE BUBBLE BURSTS. All of a sudden the roof fell in on the Colorados. Rising out of its "have not" position in Uruguay politics came that old friend of the stockman, the Blanco party, led by 85 year old Dr. Luis Alberto de Herrera. Its spokesmen promised a return to the one industry which could save the country, the raising of sheep for wool, and cattle for beef. The Colorados warned voters not to fall for this fine talk, and claimed that the Blancos would negate all the good the govern-

ment had spent years in doing. But it was no use; at that moment the United States was hit by the recession and Uruguay's chief market for wool, her largest export, shrivelled up. When it did, whatever chances the Colorado party might have had to stay in power shrank right along with it.

To climax this chain of events, the cattle supply suddenly vanished. The Uruguayan national meat packing plants had to lay off 3,000 workers. In short order after this, two U.S. and one Uruguayan export meat packing plants shut down. It is rumored that the United States companies have left for good. By the last months of 1958, over 10,000 workers in the meat packing industry alone were without jobs.

On November 30th of last year (1958), the electorate of Uruguay went to the polls and voted the Colorados out of office. In their place came the Blancos, electing a 13 man majority to Congress, and six National Council Members. These were led by Herrera and a new power on the scene, Benito Nardone. Nardone is the son of an Italian immigrant, and very importantly, heads the League of Rural Federations. He has promised his people to return the economy to his nation's heartland, the rural areas of Uruguay, and on that basis has been elected to the National Council, along with two other members of the LRF.

"We cannot keep on letting all the money come to Montevideo", he has said.

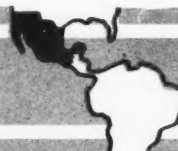
Whether or not the Blancos can save Uruguay from greater inflation is not

yet known. However, it is generally agreed that the only measure which will help the country to any extent is a return to the cattle and wool export economy of earlier years. And in this light, a most interesting development has taken place. The Russians have shown up on the scene.

Communist countries have chosen this opportune moment to step into the Uruguayan wool situation, and from a position of non-existence, suddenly become the country's number one wool buyer at the precise instant when such a step will be most appreciated. That this was no sudden decision may be taken for granted. Soviet buyers are planning to buy some \$50,000,000 of Uruguayan wool in the coming year, and have already purchased over \$16,000,000 worth, to the United States' \$5,800,000.

Moreover, Uruguay is reciprocating by purchasing some 200,000 tons of Russian petroleum and over \$1,000,000 worth of Soviet cotton. What nobody knows at the present is whether or not the Russians can manage to turn Uruguay, for years Latin America's dream democracy, into an economic dependent of the USSR. If Herrera and Nardone stick to their plans to turn Uruguay's economy back to stockraising, and no other customers appear, the communists may have an open road into a country seemingly perfectly suited to Red domination. Uruguay's people are used to having the government do virtually everything for them already; whether or not they will remain that way under the Blanco regime remains to be seen.

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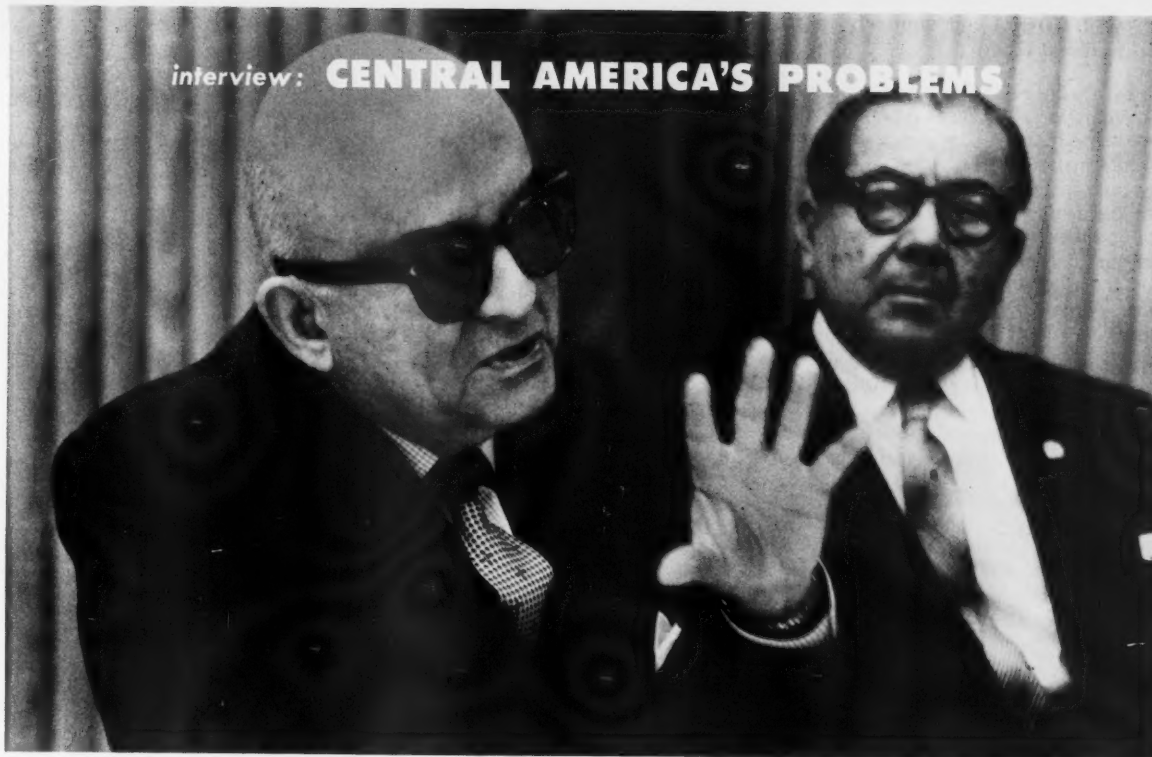
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MEXICO'S PAST:
AZTEC SUNDIAL

interview: **CENTRAL AMERICA'S PROBLEMS**



Dr. Luis Manuel Debayle (At left), President of the senate of Nicaragua.

Q. Doctor Debayle, exactly what is the so-called Central American Union?

A. This union is actually called ODECA, or Organizacion de los Estados de Centro America. In english that would be Organization of Central American States. The member nations are Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Present headquarters are in Salvador, because the Secretary General is a Salvadorian. But he travels widely to the other member nations.

Q. Panama is not a member?

A. Not at present. We have hoped that Panama will join us, however, and it now appears that this will soon be the case. Many Panamanians are apparently in favor of ODECA.

Q. Could you give us an outline of ODECA's goals?

A. The Organization has just recently been founded, as you know. For that reason it is not too easy to say exactly what we can expect to accomplish. But we are striving for a general economic and political union of all the Central American republics. The first step is economic intergration, and the establishment of free trade between the countries.

Q. Has this first step already been taken?

A. Yes, but not completely. No tariffs and an open market are our goals. But at times we must maintain certain trade restrictions between member nations, and these are still being worked out. That is why completely

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This interview is an authoritative rounding out of our article on Central American Union, starting on page 6. Our interviewee, Dr. Luis Manuel Debayle, is president of the senate of his country, Nicaragua. In this exclusive first hand talk with Latin American Report, Dr Debayle discusses his country's problems and those of Central America in general.

free trade is not yet a reality. For example, if Salvador were to have an over abundance of grain, and Nicaragua wanted to sell Salvador more grain, that trade would be restricted by mutual agreement. Well, these are the things which must still be worked out.

Q. In what other fields has ODECA already taken steps toward Central American Union?

A. In both political and economic development fields. Travelers between our countries no longer need visas. The borders are open, and in some of our nation's constitutions, it is stated that citizens of other Central American countries are citizens of it as well. In the field of economic development, much is being done. Foreign industries coming into our nations will soon be aided by the ODECA study group which is now zoning our entire area. That is, we are determining which parts of Central America can best use various types of factories and industries. This includes availability of resources and labor, and a market within the immediate area for the product. And we are not even considering national borders. If a plant is best for Guatemala, then that is where it goes.

Q. Will ODECA act similarly in matters of international trade?

A. Eventually ODECA will establish import and export regulations for all Central American trade. This will be a great step, because it will help give us a greater voice in trade matters. Together we will have more force than five little nations acting independently, and sometimes even divided against each other. For example, it occurs now and then that we find one Central American country exporting cotton at a moderate price, paying duty, while another of our republics is importing cotton at much higher prices. ODECA will prevent these mistakes in the future.

Q. How about external politics? Will the Organization of Central American States act as a bloc on the world scene? If so, do you see any danger of it becoming a neutralist coalition?

A. More than likely, ODECA and its member nations will act together in international relations. But here we must be very careful. Do not lose sight of this most important fact: if our countries unite to the point where our five United Nations votes become only one, then the balance of votation in that body might well be thrown over to the other side. We have always voted along with the United States, and will continue to do so. I think that also answers the second part of your question, but I would like to add this: the communists would like nothing better than to see Latin American countries become "neutral", because when you become neutral, then you are no longer helping the United States in its fight for democracy. That is why communists encourage neutrality, but I do not think they can succeed in Latin America.

Q. Speaking of communism, what is the condition of the movement in Latin American at the present time?

A. Communism is an ever present latent force in Latin America, simply because poverty is ever present in Latin America. Communists preach a philosophy of plenty for everybody. This appeals greatly to those who have little, even though it is a false philosophy. In Nicaragua, communism is outlawed. Communists are deported, and though we have a small communist underground, it is of nuisance value alone. But restrictive measures are really not enough. To truly overcome communism we must be able to give our people the things the communists promise. We must make their lies our truth, and this takes money. The dollar is communism's worst enemy, even more so than bullets.

Communism has changed. It is now a far more subtle force than it used to be, and in Latin America works three ways at once. First, communists try to make our people suspicious of every move the United States makes. This leads to the second step, disturbances. Mob violence, stone throwing and mass strikes are all designed to make North American investors shy away from investing in Latin America. The third step is to circulate into industries and labor unions so as to be in a position to produce both political and physical sabotage.

Q. How does this explain the almost constant student uprisings in Latin America?

A. Students in Latin America are like students anywhere; they are hyper-nationalists. They think of their country first and last, and want it to be the best. When they come



from humble homes, as most Latin Americans do, it is natural that they are good prey for communist propaganda, and are quick to act, without thinking. This is what causes the student uprising. Once again, it is not enough to disperse the demonstrators. We must cure the cause of their discontent—national poverty.

Q. You keep mentioning national poverty. Exactly what do you mean, Doctor Debayle, and what can the United States do to help?

A. Nicaragua is not a poor country. We have many resources, but they are undeveloped. This lack of development is our poverty. We need foreign investment, loans to build our own industries with, and better trade relations with the United States.

Foreign investment in Nicaragua right now is a golden opportunity. We guarantee private capital in Nicaragua, and our constitution forbids expropriation. And with the way our country is growing, any wise investment will surely pay dividends. Especially, we need milk product plants for better cheese, powdered milk and ice cream. We need canneries for our vegetables, sardines and meat products. Also for meat products, we need good refrigerating plants. And then there are household goods factories, and cotton mills; we need many such industries. I could go on with this list for hours.

Q. And what about loans? Why does Nicaragua need these?

A. We simply cannot have all our industries based on foreign capital. There must be money in the country for us to use to raise our standard of living from our own pockets. Loans have already helped us build highways, hospitals, and develop our agricultural resources.

Q. But wouldn't trade, your third point, be better than loans?

A. Yes and no. We would naturally much rather receive money in trade than as a loan, but it is not enough. We need trade to keep our present standard of living, but we also need loans to build new industries and make new jobs for our people, bettering our internal conditions and economy. Neither trade nor loans are, by themselves, the answer. A combination of both is the eventual solution to our economic problems.

Q. Doctor Debayle, there has been a lot of concern recently over the loss of foreign currency reserves by many Latin American countries. Does this tie into what you have been saying about trade?

A. The loss of foreign currency reserves simply means that a country is spending more for imports than it is getting for exports. In our country, for example, we were getting good prices for our cotton and coffee. Then the recession hit the United States, and we could not sell our products so well. But our people had become used to good prices and a higher standard of living. We were using the money we made with our exports to import both needed products and luxury goods. Despite the loss of revenue from exports, our people want to go on with this higher standard of living, so imports continue, and we find ourselves spending more dollars on imported automobiles than we earn with our exported cotton. This is what is meant by loss of currency reserves, and a resumption of trade with the United States, at fair prices for our goods, is the solution to this problem.

Q. Has Nicaragua taken any internal steps to control this unequal balance of trade?

A. We have limited the import of luxury items and placed customhouse tariffs on goods in this class. We do not restrict imports of jeeps and trucks, for example, but luxury automobiles are placed on the high tariffs list. More broadly, we are now introducing a program to establish local absorption industries in our country, and the other Central American members of ODECA as well. This means that first consideration will be given to industries whose product is immediately needed by our people. This, in turn, will greatly reduce our need for importation of essential commodities and allow us to import luxury goods at lower tariff rates while still maintaining a good balance of trade. In this way our people will have the things they need at hand, and be



better able to buy the high class goods the United States makes so well.

Q. Is there any danger that Communist bloc nations may become prime traders with the ODECA republics?

A. Not at present. But they are moving into South America, and making good propaganda from their trade moves. Latin American countries need greater trade income and the communists are filling this need, not so much for the trade, but for propaganda value.

Q. What can the United States do to prevent this situation from getting any worse?

A. The only way is with money. We need more dollars in trade, more foreign investment and more loans. People of the United States should remember that it is better to spend money now than lives later. For the western world there is unfortunately no alternative.



IN MARCH:

 an interview with
 Argentina's Doctor
 Risieri Frondizi



The most luxurious of Uruguay's beaches, Punta del Este

For a Republic which has seen as much trouble as Uruguay, the appearance of the country is certainly deceptive. It is probably one of the finest looking of South American nations, and pleasure-wise certainly deserves its nickname as "Playground of a Continent". Montevideo, that fabulous city which is the beginning and end of any trip to Uruguay, may be reached from virtually any other spot on the face of the earth with no trouble at all. However, because Uruguay's seasons are reversed from those of the Northern Hemisphere, watch out for your dates. Remember that "the season", as far as Uruguayans are concerned, is from December until March, so plan travel accordingly.

Uruguay is divided, as they said about Gaul, into three parts. These are: The City, The Beach, The Rest. The city and the beach are actually one place, Montevideo, and the rest is the other 72,000 square miles of the nation.

Don't let the apparent size of the country scare you out of a trip around it. Uruguay is no Trinidad, to be traversed in several hours, but you can cross it by automobile or on tour in as little as two days. There is



Carnival in Montevideo is at least as bright as anywhere else, including Rio. The garlands of lights stretch as far as the eye can see, and the hundreds of thousands of parade watchers continue in a line right along under them

Playground



Punta del Este's cabanas, rentable from the concessionaires at less cost than suntan oil

much to see in the interior, but most especially, miles of pleasant rolling countryside, the magnificent ranches (they put Texas to shame), and some of the greatest sport fishing you'll ever find. The colorful fish are called Dorado, by the way, and are found in quantity up the Uruguay River at Salto Grande Falls.

At Salto there are tourist lodges and ranch guest houses, all run by the ever-thoughtful Uruguayan Tourist Commission. By the way, the Tourist Commission is one of the very best to be found anywhere. Generally, if they are operating a lodge in any area you plan to visit, you may be sure that it will be top rate and very reasonable.

MONTEVIDEO. But back to Montevideo. The city is the capital of the country, has a population of some 900,000, and is a tourist center for thousands more. Chief attraction of Montevideo is the unbroken line of splendid beaches, stretching some 100 miles up the coast. For all practical purposes the limits of this area may be defined as Montevideo itself on the west, and Punta del Este on the east. In between are numerous smaller beaches, many hotels, fine restaurants, wonderful little villages and some very pleasant roadside scenery.



Carnival parade. Like Mardi Gras in the United States, and pre-lenten celebrations in other Latin American countries, they are long, numerous, and draw the entire population out to watch them

The magnificent Clinical Hospital in Montevideo; it's free to all Uruguayan citizens



In the capital, there are many places to stay, among them the Victoria Plaza, luxurious, air-conditioned, featuring fine food and excellent service. It is the equal of virtually any super-hotel the world around, and recommended as headquarters to anyone traveling in Uruguay. Rates are about \$10, European plan. Other, less expensive hotels, abound, among them the Nogaro and Alhambra. And down near the beach are the Prague, Ermitage, Rambla and many more. Most of these, by the way, have gaming casinos.

One of the great joys of visiting Montevideo lies in the fact that the tourist need never be in the dark about what is going on where. Merely pick up a telephone and dial 213. You will be able to get up to the minute information on everything from train schedules to the exact curtain time at the opera. Want to know where a handy drug store is located, or the weather tomorrow, movie programs, what's on at the theater, where you can find a good Italian restaurant (and there are some really fine ones), or who is playing in the championship soccer match? Just dial 213.

CLIMATE. Speaking of drug stores, if you get really ill, there are few

finer hospitals in the world than Clinical Hospital in Montevideo. The staff there is as up to date, and has as fine equipment as any in the United States. All food, drinking water and beverages are absolutely safe, thanks to the eagle eyes of Uruguay's food and drug inspectors. In fact, Uruguay as a whole is one of the cleanest and freshest looking countries to visit anywhere.

Part of this is due to the fact that the climate is virtually ideal. There are no seasons of drought and sand, followed by weeks of pouring rain. Nor is it ever freezing cold or blistering hot. Montevideo's temperature averages from 50 to 75 degrees the year around. This salubrious climate, coupled with the fine beaches, luxury hotels and casinos, is why the area is called "The Riviera of South America." Frankly speaking, the Mediterranean Riviera hasn't been as nice as Uruguay's for some time, as any traveler to both places will readily attest.

One could spend hours strolling the streets, spending every last penny in Montevideo's shops. There are some fine ones, among them: London Paris, Casa Rim, Tienda Inglesa, La Madri-lena and Casa Schiavo. Needless to say, leather goods are among your best

buys in Uruguay. And, since this seems like a good place to mention a word of two about customs, here goes. Uruguay does have just about anything you could want, but at fairly high prices, so the government has very reasonably compromised. You may bring in a little of anything, but not very much. One open carton of cigarettes, a camera, some film, are all okay. But just you try to get in with two cartons of cigarettes. Better check with your travel agent or the Uruguayan Tourist Agency before you leave.

MONEY. As for money, the peso, worth about a dime (at this writing), is the country's monetary unit. But Montevideo is a free market. This means you can bring in all the American or Lower Slobbovian currency you want, and exchange it at the best rates right on the spot. Do not change your money to pesos before you get to Montevideo. Once there you will find money changing establishments on every corner, under such names as Wagon Lits/Cook. You may be sure that they are to be trusted. When you want to get rid of whatever pesos you may have, simply head for the nearest gaming casino, where you will be obliged. Even in Montevideo the house always wins.



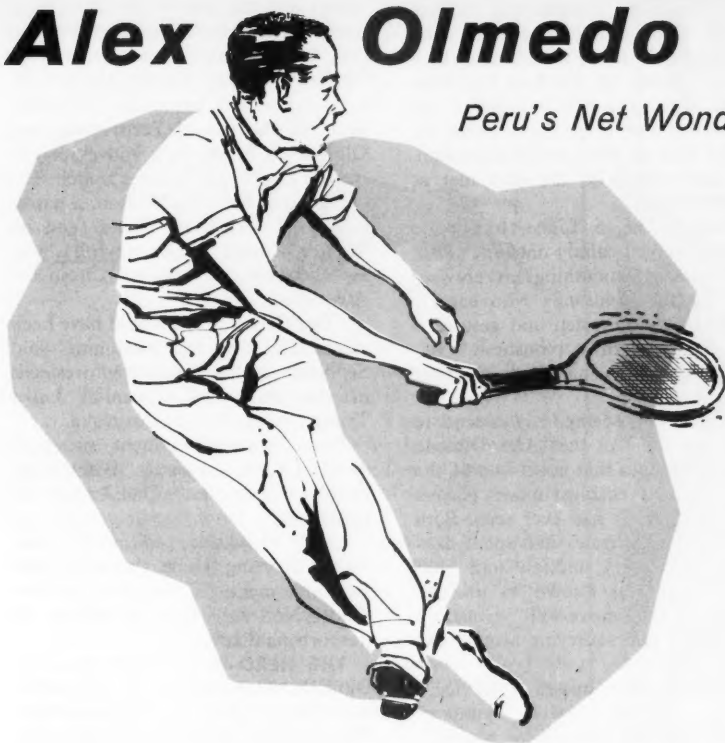
Sylvan pathway to one of the coast's more secluded beaches

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Alex Olmedo

Peru's Net Wonder



When 22 year old Alejandro Olmedo y Rodriguez walked out onto Milton Courts at Brisbane, Australia last month, the 18,500 tennis fans on hand, drawn from all over the world by the drama of the Davis Cup matches, read their programs in disbelief. Olmedo, who nobody had ever heard of, was about to attempt to win the Cup back from tennis power Australia. The Aussies had finished at the very top of the heap in international tennis tournaments during the year, and their star player, Ashley Cooper, was holder of the Australian, United States and Wimbledon championships. Moreover the Cup had left Australia only once in the past 10 years. The American team didn't stand much chance, it was felt (odds were 10-1), and who was this Olmedo fellow anyway?

Alejandro Olmedo, "Alex" to his North American friends, is a citizen of Peru, currently attending college at the University of Southern California, where he majors in Commerce. Though he has played tennis for ten years, his only real claim to fame, until Brisbane, was the fact that he holds the National Collegiate Tennis Championship title of the United States. Not very much in the way of qualification, most people felt, not against the redoubtable Cooper. It was known that Olmedo had been coached by Perry Jones, the American

captain, and was provided with two superb advisors in the persons of Jack Kramer and Pancho Gonzalez, the United States' best professional tennis players. Even this didn't make much of an impression; Alex couldn't take Kramer or Gonzalez onto the court when he played.

FIRST TRY—The first match pitted the young Peruvian against Mal Anderson, Australia's number two singles player. It was expected that Olmedo might put up a fight against Anderson; in fact, he might possibly win, though it was an outside chance indeed. When Alex strode off the court that day he left behind him one of the most baffled tennis players in the land down under. Even though Olmedo had played somewhat lackadaisically, Anderson had found himself outplayed, outguessed and outfought. He had lost, but good, to the unknown from South America. People began to sit up and take notice.

Next came the doubles matches, in which Olmedo and Ham Richardson, who is generally considered the United States' player, were teamed against Australia's Neale Fraser and, once again, Mal Anderson.

The doubles turned into a four hour marathon, with the players banging away at the ball for 81 consecutive non-stop games. It soon became apparent that the team which would win was the one outlasting the other,

since the four players seemed perfectly matched. Finally, in the 82nd game, it was decided. Alex rushed the net, and playing as though he was just getting warmed up, pounded the ball until he had won the game without conceding a single point to the hapless Aussies. Sharp eyed tennis fans noticed that the Peruvian had taken the lion's share of the battle on his own shoulders. Overnight Brisbane and the tennis world began to buzz with excitement; a new star was in the American tennis firmament. What wasn't known at that time was the fact that Alejandro Olmedo had come perilously close to not making the Davis Cup team at all.

RISE TO FAME— Alejandro Olmedo y Rodriguez, second oldest of seven children, was born in 1936 in the Peruvian highlands at Arequipa, where, at age 12, he began to play tennis. His first teacher was his father, caretaker and instructor at the Arequipa Tennis Club, but his discoverer, Stan Singer of Los Angeles, spotted him on the courts at Lima, Peru's capital city.

Singer, a tennis pro, had been hired by the Peruvian government to teach tennis to the nation's youngsters, and encountered Olmedo on the courts of a boarding school which the boy was attending. Immediately sensing that the teenager, then Peru's National Junior Champion, had tremendous talent, he tried to get him a scholarship to a college in the United States, where the boy could take advantage of better training opportunities. But Alex could not speak a word of English; his attempts failed. And he could not afford the tuition on his own. Finally the people of Arequipa decided to take matters into their own hands. Raising a fund, they put Alejandro on a boat to the United States and bid him fond farewell. It was assured that once he got there, Alex would have no trouble getting into school and then making his way to the top of the tennis world.

Alex came close to not even making it to the United States. The boat he was on somehow wound up in Havana, Cuba. From there he had to shuttle to Miami, then take a cross country bus to Los Angeles, where Stan Singer had friends. In virtually every town entered while on this trip, Alex was accosted by policemen who accused him of being a Mexican wet-back. Since he could not speak English, Peru's tennis star was often in hot water. And though he saved every penny he could, Alex arrived in California with only \$70 left to his name.

"It was a rough trip", he says today.

ENTER PERRY JONES—But once in Los Angeles, he was safe. Joe Ciani, one of Singer's friends and a tennis court operator, gave Alex a job and coached his game. He also sent the Peruvian to night school to learn English, and finally managed to get him admitted to Modesto Junior College, an institution noted for its tennis players. It was while at Modesto that Perry Jones found Alex Olmedo.

The coach to be of the Davis Cup team sat open-mouthed one fine day as the nineteen year old Olmedo, playing in that casual way he has, proceeded to break three tennis balls in half during the course of playing a game.

"He was the image of Pancho Gonzales, but he hit a ball much harder. I never saw anyone in tennis hit a ball harder."

There was no doubt in Jones' mind that Alex had to be given a greater opportunity to show what he could do, so he had the boy transfer to the University of Southern California on a scholarship. Financial aid came from Peru itself in the form of a secretarial position in the Peruvian Consulate at Los Angeles, and Alex began to move into the tennis spotlight.

He was on the fringes to be sure, playing in collegiate games, but within a year had become impressive enough to be allowed to enter the National Collegiate Matches, which he handily won. Alex Olmedo began to be a name that was whispered among tennis fans, but the public was still ingorant of his existence. Not so Perry Jones. The old coach was watching his collegiate star like a hawk. In 1957 Alex went on the European tournament tour, and last year advanced to the quarter-finals at Forest Hills before being defeated by Neale Fraser, the same man he was to beat in the Davis Cup doubles some months later.

THE FUROR—When it came time for selection of the 1958 Davis Cup team, captain Jones put Peruvian Alejandro Olmedo on the roster. Almost immediately a hue and cry went up from Jones' opponents; never before had a non-U.S. citizen represented the United States in the Davis Cup matches. It was a bad reflection on the quality of the nation's amateur tennis players. Indeed it was, but this did not stop the redoubtable Perry Jones. He wanted the United States to win, and under Davis Cup rules Olmedo was eligible to play, so he was going, and that's all there was to it.

As for the Australians, when they

heard that Alex Olmedo was to face Ashley Cooper in the critical final singles match of the tournament, they were sure that all the fuss had been for nothing. The boy wonder of the Andes was sure to go down under the skillful play of their world champion. On December 31st the duo met at Milton Courts.

FINALE—The 6 foot, 165 pound Olmedo walked calmly onto the court, unconsciously smoothing his crewcut hair. To the thousands who eagerly watched his every step and gesture it seemed a sign of nervousness.

"The Peruvian has had it", they agreed.

What never seemed significant to them was the fact that Alex Olmedo walked out onto that court one of the most perfectly coached tennis players the Cup matches had ever seen. Both Kramer and Gonzales had spent days going over every motion and skill that Cooper was known to possess.

"Cooper can't move well", Gonzales said. "Keep him scurrying around the court".

"When Cooper misses a service", Kramer advised, "start jumping around to worry him on his second".

"Keep him away from the net, and keep the ball low."

Even more importantly, and equally overlooked by the experts, was the fact that Alejandro Olmedo, though a United States college student, is a Peruvian. He was born, raised and taught to play tennis in a city 7,500 feet above sea level. His lungs are larger by far than those of an athlete from such "low" countries as Australia. His endurance is far greater, and his capacity to dish out punishment far superior.

THE BIG WIN—Alex Olmedo made Ashley Cooper look like "a frustrated weekend player", according to one sports writer. The expert Australian double defaulted eleven times, something unheard of for a Wimbledon champion. And though Alex was not putting on any extra steam against Cooper, the Australian was simply worn down by the Peruvian's phenomenal durability. By the thirteenth and deciding game of the match Cooper was through. Alex Olmedo, with tears in his eyes, was the man who had brought the Davis Cup back to the United States.

He had completely captured the fancy of the Australian crowd; when the Cup was awarded in the traditional ceremony, the crowd broke that tradition by setting up a cry for their hero, "We want Alex... we want Alex". In fact, the Australians, unflinching in their praise for Olmedo,

Jones and the rest of the Davis Cuppers, have behaved for better about the United States' victory than most residents of the winning nation.

Sports writers have been very busy decrying the use of Peruvian citizen Olmedo to begin with, and especially his use in the final singles match. His choice over Ham Richardson, a native citizen of the United States (and on Senator Russell Long's payroll), was reprehensible, they claim. Not so the Australians.

"The United States would have been remiss had they not used him" said Sir Norman Brookes, retired president of the extremely influential Lawn Tennis Association of Australia.

Don Ferguson, present president of the LTAA, declared, "What room is there for protest? The Australians loved him."

Geoff Hawksley, editor of Australia's Sporting Globe, shook his head in wonderment. "This ruckus is ridiculous. Not only that, we think it's unsportsmanlike".

THE HERO—In Peru, Alejandro Olmedo, descendent of the Incas (on his father's side), is a national hero. When news of his victory over Ashley Cooper was read in the Peruvian senate, all business stopped dead as the august body rose in a standing ovation to the boy.

Jorge Harten, president of the Peruvian Tennis Federation, immediately invited Olmedo home "to receive the homage you so well deserve". And the Peruvian Basketball Federation promptly began a drive for money to build Alex's parents a home; they currently live on the Arequipa Club grounds. He has been sent congratulations by the President of his nation, countless sportsmen and many of his fellow citizens.

Finally, as this is written, the Peruvian Senate has ordered the minister of education to decorate Alex with the rarely awarded Order of Sports. Even the United States has come through. Rising above the protests, Victor Denny, all powerful president of the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association, specifically congratulated team captain Perry Jones on "his selection of players".

Alex Olmedo, Peru's tennis wonder, has no present intention of remaining in the United States once his education is complete, though, he admits, "that may change". Even now, he considers himself more a North American in some ways than many born in the United States.

"I am a Peruvian by birth and citizenship", he says, "but I consider myself a United States tennis player"

Calendar of Festivals



JANUARY

1—INDEPENDENCE DAY—HAITI. Anniversary of proclamation of Independence of the old colony of St. Dominique. Main festivities are in Port au Prince and Gonaives.

1-7—CHALMA FESTIVAL, MEXICO. The sanctuary of Chalma near Cuernavaca is renowned for the cures wrought by its Christ. At night, forest trails are a spectacle of endless torchlight processions. Thousands of Indians sing native chants and perform native dances.

6—EPIPHANY is the day on which children throughout Latin America receive their presents, though the custom of Christmas gift-giving is spreading. In Popayan, Colombia, a classical miracle play is performed; another, in Cuzco, Peru is markedly Indian.

6—AT MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, the biggest horse race of the year is run. In this international competition, Argentine and Brazilian colors are represented.

13-23—PATRON FEAST DAY of San Sebastian in Puerto Rico. Parades, dancing in public squares.

15—FEAST OF BLACK CHRIST of Esquipulas, Guatemala. One of the most famous of Guatemalan festivals, attended by pilgrims from all over the country and from Mexico. The miraculous statue, carved in 1595, is dressed in gold embroidered white satin and laden with jewels. The church is immense.

15-30—INTERNATIONAL AUTO RACING season in Argentina. The world's outstanding speed drivers converge on Buenos Aires to compete in three races, two of which count for the world's championship.

17—DAY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA. In Mexico, animals adorned with ribbons and flowers are brought to the churches to be blessed; typical ceremonies are at the Church of San Bernardino in Xochimilco and at Tlalpan, both near Mexico City.

20—A CHILEAN FIESTA in the plaza Yungay in Santiago celebrates the anniversary of the Battle of Yungay in 1839, distinguished by the bravery of the rotos (literate, ragged ones). Name of the day is Dia del Roto Chileno or Day of the Chilean Vagabond.

24-26—ALACITAS FAIR, BOLIVIA. Held in the main square of La Paz, the capital, this fair honors Ekeko, the good-natured, pot-bellied Aymara god of prosperity. Booths abound with Indian crafts.

FEBRUARY

PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL is the gayest event of the year in almost every Latin American country. It varies in length from two days to a full month festival. In some places it gets under way four days before Ash Wednesday (February 1 in 1959). In Port of Spain, Trinidad, carnival will be celebrated February 9-10. In Havana, Cuba, and Rio de Janeiro, it will begin February 7. These cities hold the most outstanding carnivals but the traveler will find plenty of merriment in Montevideo, Uruguay, in the French West Indian islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, in the Dutch island of Curacao, and the British island of Barbados. Since the dates of this fiesta vary in the Caribbean, travelers can contact the Caribbean Tourist Association, 237 Madison Avenue, New York City for specific information.

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BOOKS IN REVIEW....

BULLFIGHT

by Peter Buckley
Simon and Schuster, N.Y.

For any friend of the bullfights, or genuinely interested novice spectator, this book is a must. If, in fact, you have never even seen a corrida, and do not plan to, you will not find it a waste of money. Lastly, any photographer who takes pride in outstanding examples of his craft's work should own BULLFIGHT.

The book was made in Spain, where the author spent some half dozen seasons as a camp follower of the matadors, photographing as he went. It is no surprise, therefore, to find that the action in the pictures which fill the book is good. Buckley undoubtedly had many more failures than successes in his attempts to capture on film the excitement of the bullfight. Fortunately we are spared any of these failures. All the pictures used are nothing less than excellent.

The reproduction standard in BULLFIGHT is superb. Only twice before have I seen pictures and process so well tied in together on the printed page. It would be entirely possible to frame the pages of this book and hang them up. They are indeed a joy to look at.

Unfortunately, however, the text which accompanies photographer Buckley's pictures is not a joy to read. It is perfectly literate, which is a achievement itself for a photographer, but seems to be a stew of style in which the author is convinced, by turns, that he is Papa Hemingway, Barnaby Conrad, and a re-write man for the Daily News. Do not misunderstand; the text is written with a purpose, or so it seems, and fills this purpose quite adequately. It teaches the reader a lot more about the bullfighter and the sport than many another, more ambitious, corrida in novel form.

Although Buckley's pictures far outweigh his words, it would be wise to start this book by reading the words first. That way you will get to now much more about the cast of characters of the bullfight world, and, so to speak, recognize the players because you've read the program. Also included by thoughtful author Buckley, a glossary of bullfight jargon.

All in all, a beautiful book, wonderful photography, and a worthy addition to any private library.

The Volcanoes Above Us

by Norman Lewis
Pantheon, \$3.75

Regrettably for Americans, this book follows ably in the footsteps of Graham Greene's "The Quiet American". Once again the United States is drawn across the coals, and once again it sounds only too real.

The hero of Mr. Lewis' novel is a young Briton, one David Williams, whose mission is to regain his family's plantations in Guatemala, come what may. What comes is that he gets involved; quite voluntarily, in a revolutionary movement headed up by an ex-SS Nazi, and overthrows the nasty old dictator. It is only then that he finds out that whereas the old dictator was a whipcracker, the new man is having the whip cracked over him. "He is being used", as they say, by the American "Universal Coffee Company".

Universal is a gigantic organization, and it numbers among its minions one Winthrop Elliot, as revolting a man as the United States has ever produced. Elliot is Central American manager, and it is his avowed goal to turn Guadalupe, headquarters for both Universal Coffee and David Williams, into a tourist paradise.

To do this he builds phony Mayan ruins, complete with Mexican silversmiths, then forces the Guatemalan native labor force to abandon their

old town and reside in his "model chalets". Determined to destroy the Indian way of life, he has a super sanitary DDT force that sprays each home every day; his men all wear pajama-like uniforms, and get paid in scrip, good only at the company stores. And to complete the picture, he builds a wire fence around this informal prison and mans it with armed guards.

"The natives", says humanitarian Elliot, "have agreed to make a temporary sacrifice of their freedom in the interests, shall we say, of true democratic liberty".

Needless to say, though the Guatemalans never heard Elliot say this, they have not agreed to anything of the sort. But they are not determined as to a course of action, when Elliot pulls his biggest blunder. In a fit of righteousness, he razes the pagan native alters, and imprisons their priests. That does it; just as the first American tourists flood over his model town, Elliot's model natives calmly walk out of their model homes and off towards the mountains.

This leaves the Busy American and his dream quite crushed and abandoned. What is worse, British author Lewis leaves the reader quite appalled at the thought that a lot of people who read the book will not think it fiction, putting a lot of Americans right into coffeeman Elliot's unenviable shoes.

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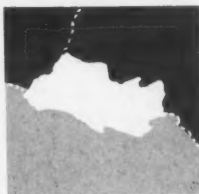
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